

MINUTES

Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

March 18, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Zoom

Present – Renée LeClair (presiding), Aaron Bond, Ionnis Koutromanos, Leslie LaConte, Kendyl Lewis, Veronica van Montfrans, Joshua Neal, Phil Nelson, Kayla Robertson, Molly Ryan, Jill Sible, Kaylee South, Aimée Surprenant, Kwok Tsang, Jerald Walz, Sonja Crockett for Meng Zhu

Absent with Notice: None

Absent: Kirk Cameron, Kiri Goldbeck DeBose, Nicole Holt, Cayce Myers, Brian Strahm, Tyler Walters, Meng Zhu

Guests: Janice Austin, Kevin Edgar, Katie Gregg, Barbara Hoopes, William Huckle, April Myers, Lauren Surface, Sarah Tucker, Tiffany Willis,

Renée called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Approval and posting minutes of March 4, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 4 minutes.

3. Unfinished Business

Second Readings: Resolutions CGPSP 2025-26C, D, E, and F

All Four resolutions received their first reading at Faculty Senate and advanced to second reading at the commission. Each was moved, seconded, and approved without opposition. All will proceed to second reading and vote at Faculty Senate.

[CGPSP 2025-26C](#)

Recommends a working group to address Policy 6210 on graduate assistantship management, covering minimum leave allowances, additional leave categories, a revised duties template, and UMI committee recommendations.

[CGPSP 2025-26D](#)

Revises PPM 232 to change the course audit cycle from three years to five, consistent with the undergraduate policy.

[CGPSP 2025-26E](#)

Establishes one-semester filing deadline for graduate academic appeals, consistent with undergraduate policy. Faculty Senate discussion noted some surprise that grade appeals are permitted; no objections were raised.

Retires approximately 40 PPMs addressing graduate matters and consolidates their content in the Graduate Catalog. No policy substance is eliminated; policies are relocated.

4. New Business

IPhD Proposal

Dr. Huckle introduced the agenda item, noting that a Commission member's role is to assess the proposal's alignment with IPhD program principles and interdisciplinarity, not to evaluate detailed scholarly merit. Sarah Tucker presented her proposed IPhD program titled "Immersive Museology, Applied Research in Museum Immersion". Sarah described the three pillars of the proposed program (immersive exhibit design, technology-enhanced learning, and interpretive frameworks) as the intended space of "immersive museology," with the IPhD enabling their integration. A vote will be taken at the April 1st meeting.

5. Reports

- Graduate School Appeals – Aimée Surprenant: None at this time.
- Graduate School – Aimée Surprenant: Graduate Education week will be from March 23-27, with events planned in Blacksburg, Northern Virginia, and Roanoke, all open to the full university community. Members are encouraged to attend and volunteer as GPSS Research Symposium Judges.
- Degrees and Academic Progress – Jerald Walz: DAP plans to meet soon to begin work on referred items, including pass/fail transfer credit and dissertation grading distinctions.
- NTCO GS Committee – Barbara Hoopes: Recent meeting covered application redirection workflows in Slate, an email delivery issue affecting alumni applicants, fraudulent applications, graduate implications of federal financial aid challenges, application fee waivers for corporate partner employees, and pre-enrollment benefits for admitted students.
- Graduate Honor System – Molly Ryan: High case volume this spring, mostly AI-related. First teaching-related case concluded and will be used as a panelist training case study. A faculty workshop on AI syllabus statements is planned for Graduate Education Week next week.
- University Libraries – Kiri Goldbeck DeBose: None at this time.
- Faculty Senate – Phil Nelson: None at this time.
- Board of Visitors – Katie Gregg: Public comment on a proposed ~3% tuition and fee increase is open through March 26 (to speak) and April 6 (written). Student representative finalists will be interviewed on March 30; announcement expected before the April meeting.
- AP Faculty Senate – Aaron Bond: First reading of a resolution on AP Faculty Senate governance representation. A conflict-of-interest policy change requiring all VT employees to disclose secondary employment and consulting will be presented to the commission at the April 15 meeting.
- Staff Senate – Kayla Robertson: None at this time.
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Jill Sible: None at this time.

6. Presentation

Aaron Bond and Tiffany Willis, co-chairs of the AI² Working Group, presented the group's recommendations. The group was convened to address educational needs for faculty and students around academic integrity in the context of AI use, their rights regarding that use (intellectual property, etc.), and the potential bias and equity issues in AI use and detection. Key recommendations from their findings included:

- Changes to Policy 6000: students must follow course-level AI policies and disclose AI when permitted; in the absence of a stated policy, AI use in graded work is prohibited. Faculty must explicitly state if AI is permitted, prohibited, or limited, and how disclosure should occur.
- Cheating: adding an example that using generative AI for graded work is unauthorized unless explicitly allowed.
- Plagiarism: explicitly including undisclosed generative AI use contributing to submitted work.

Support tools for faculty and students are in the process of being developed.

7. Other Items

- Next meeting will be on April 1.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m.